

international development, I now come to the last but equally significant part of the ROC's national security: aligning Taiwan's defense with diplomacy. I have two priorities. First, I want to continue to build up Taiwan's credibility and trust with our closest allies, especially the United States. To be a trustworthy partner, Taiwan must be keenly aware of how its actions in the international system affect the interests of the big powers. This means "never rocking the boat" and "full consultation."

Second, Taiwan has the resolve to defend itself. My administration wants to enhance Taiwan's defense capability on a newly designed volunteer military system. This is a huge undertaking, as we need to overcome difficulties in training, organization, finance and military doctrines. However, we are confident that we will succeed in building a small but strong military force. Complementary to our defense capability is Taiwan's democratic values, rule of law, and an advanced civil society, which could make Taiwan an indispensable reference for socio-economic development in the Chinese mainland. This is, it could be said, a soft-power approach to national defense.

Given the high stakes that America has invested in the region, I am sure the US, of all countries, can appreciate my administration's commitment to being a responsible stakeholder. For example, President Barack Obama expressed earlier this year his support for the progress that has been made to reduce Cross-Strait tensions, and in particular how its continuation will be in the interests of the region and the United States. However, for Cross-Strait relations to continue advancing, the US must help Taiwan level the playing field. Negotiating with a giant like the Chinese mainland is not without its risks. The right leverage must be in place, otherwise Taiwan cannot credibly maintain an equal footing at the negotiation table. This is why I continue to urge the US to provide Taiwan with necessary defensive weaponry, such as the F-16 C/Ds and diesel-powered submarines, to keep its aerial and naval integrity intact, which is key to maintaining a credible defense. As Secretary of Defense Robert Gates wrote in Foreign Affairs last year, the US can best help itself by "helping others defend themselves." At the same time, American presence in the very system it helped create decades ago is crucial to that system's survival. In the end, only a strong US commitment, backed by its credibility in East Asia, can guarantee the peace and stability of this region.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In conclusion, a country's overall strategy for security requires a sound political foundation in the domestic setting. My approach to Taiwan's national security is based on my administration's unwavering identification with the Republic of China and its Constitution. This is a common denominator for our vibrant democracy, which has a wide spectrum of political views ranging from those who prefer de jure Taiwan independence, to those who enjoy the status quo and to those who favor reunification with mainland China. Any deviation from or equivocation on this common denominator will only cause unnecessary uncertainties and risks in Taiwan's domestic politics, Cross-Strait relations and international politics. Given that the stakes for all the countries in East Asia and for Taiwan's future development are high, I am confident my approach to the ROC's national security is already at an optimum.

My friends in America, the future of the region holds enormous opportunities, but also many potential pitfalls. Changes in both Taiwan and the mainland's domestic politics

could derail much of what has been achieved. Intransigence, overconfidence or unilateral pursuit of national interests could lead to a losing scenario for all relevant parties. So it will be essential to keep track of these moving pieces in the future. For my part, the process of transforming Taiwan into a valuable member of the global community, and thus ultimately enhancing its own security, will continue full-steam ahead under my administration. The same-old "no frills, no surprise" diplomacy will also continue to be the operational code for my administration's conduct of foreign policy. That said, I hope this year will mark the start of a new 100 years that will be known as the century when the Taiwan-US partnership achieved its greatest accomplishments.

Thank you!

PRESIDENT MA'S CLOSING REMARKS

Dear friends and colleagues, as the famous American poet Robert Frost once wrote, "I took the road less travelled by, and that has made all the difference." The past three years have witnessed unprecedented breakthroughs and positive developments in Taiwan and the region. Yet for the road ahead, we still need to be patient and careful in our political rhetoric, in the signals we send, in the gestures we make, and in the reputation we cultivate. I draw reassurance from the positive developments that continue to unfold across the Strait and in the international community, and I have full confidence in my administration's roadmap. On a deeper level the improvement of Cross-Strait relations in the past three years reflects the result of something fundamentally more significant: the comprehensive overhaul of Taiwan's strategic approach to the world. An approach that has coupled Cross-Strait relations, the economy and foreign relations together in such a way as to fully maximize Taiwan's potential value in the global community. Taiwan has to transform itself into a peacemaker, a contributor of humanitarian aid, a center for innovation and business opportunities, a major promoter of cultural exchange and the standard bearer of Chinese culture. As the Republic of China reaches its centennial anniversary, I believe my administration's grand strategy will make the Republic more secure, more prosperous for many, many years to come. I also firmly believe America's friendship will be an inseparable part of the Republic of China's future, as it has been in the past one hundred years.

Thank you!

A TRIBUTE TO IOWA GIRL SCOUT TEAM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of Girl Scouts from Ames and Gilbert, Iowa, who came together and formed a team called the Flying Monkeys. In May, they will be participating in a FIRST Lego League competition in Carlsbad, California.

The FIRST Lego League North American Open is a national contest that encourages young girls to become interested in science and engineering. The competition is limited to 76 teams from North America with each region selecting a team to represent them.

In January, the Flying Monkeys, under the direction of their Troop Leaders Claire Bassett

and Melissa Murray, and assisted by Zack Pachol won the Iowa FIRST Lego League Innovation Award for the invention of their device called the BOB-1. This device is an improved prosthesis for a girl who was born with missing fingers on her right hand and will help her to write. They have gone on to compete for the Global Innovation Award to win a full utility patent for BOB-1 and win a trip to Washington D.C.

I commend the Flying Monkeys for their commitment to leadership in science and technology. This group of girls—Courtney Pohlen, Gaby Dempsey, Maria Werner Anderson, Zoe Groat, Mackenzie Grewell, and Kate Murray—are future leaders of this country of whom Iowans should be very proud.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating these girls on their accomplishments. It is my honor to serve as their representative, and I wish them the best of luck in the future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S DR. NAN S. HUTCHINSON BROWARD SENIORS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the eleven Broward residents—Joel Fass, Bea Hedigan, John Gargotta, Maria Thereza Mayo, Kenneth S. Rubin, Mayor Emma Shoaff, Esmie Straw, Lora Thomson, Belle Trebuck, Dr. Steven Weisberg, and Commissioner Lois Wexler—that were recently elected to the Aging and Disability Center of Broward County's Dr. Nan S. Hutchison Broward Seniors Hall of Fame. These eleven volunteer and community leaders have dedicated much of their retirement to improving Broward County, and it is my privilege to congratulate them today for this great achievement.

This group of elected officials, business leaders, lawyers, and community activists has tirelessly worked to improve the quality of life for Broward's seniors. Their continuous service to the South Florida community, especially their humanitarian efforts and their advocacy for the less fortunate, makes me proud to call these 11 individuals my neighbors and friends.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to stand before you today and recognize the achievements of this year's Dr. Nan S. Hutchinson Broward Seniors Hall of Fame inductees. Their dedication and hard work has truly made Broward County a better place.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "OIL CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2011"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Oil Consumer Protection Act of 2011," legislation that would subject the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries,

OPEC, nations to the U.S. antitrust laws, prohibit oil and gas companies from unilaterally withholding supply with the intent of raising prices or creating a shortage and would protect consumers from price gouging of gasoline.

You do not have to look very hard to see that the American consumer is hurting. And if you ask people on the street what worries them most, the majority will tell you that it is the price of gasoline. American families and businesses are yet again paying record prices for gasoline. The retail price of gasoline has jumped and is now in the range of \$4 per gallon. Driving should not have to be a luxury. Americans today are spending far too much of their paychecks at the pump.

In my home State of Michigan, gas prices earlier this month reached their highest levels ever at \$4.22 per gallon. Figures released by the AAA Michigan show that the \$4.22 per gallon state average surpassed the previous record of \$4.21 per gallon set in July 2008.

My bill, once and for all, will crack down on foreign oil cartels. Currently, based on the sovereign immunity doctrine, foreign nations and businesses they control may avoid accountability under U.S. antitrust law. This bill would eliminate the doctrine and allow antitrust law to apply to anticompetitive cartels.

This legislation, the "Oil Consumer Protection Act of 2011" would:

Exempt OPEC and other nations from the provisions of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act to the extent those governments are engaged in price-fixing and other anticompetitive activities with regard to pricing, production and distribution of petroleum products. (OPEC currently claims sovereign immunity by saying its actions are "governmental activity," which is protected, rather than "commercial activity," which is not.)

Make clear that the so-called "Act of State" doctrine does not prevent courts from ruling on antitrust charges brought against foreign governments and that foreign governments are "persons" subject to suit under the antitrust laws.

Authorize lawsuits in U.S. federal court against oil cartel members by the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

Amend the Clayton Act to prohibit oil and gas companies from unilaterally withholding supply with the intent of raising prices or creating a shortage.

Direct several studies, including a Justice Department/Federal Trade Commission study of mergers in the oil and gas industry, and a GAO study of whether government consent decrees in oil mergers have been effective.

Direct the Attorney General and Federal Trade Commission Chairman to establish a joint federal/state task force with state attorneys general to investigate information sharing among oil companies.

Would empower the Federal Trade Commission and state attorneys general to institute civil and criminal penalties for fuel price gouging during periods proclaimed by the President as an international crisis affecting oil markets.

It is time someone did something about our outrageous gas prices. I hope Congress has the sense to act on this legislation immediately.

CELEBRATING THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN SCHOOL'S EIGHTH GRADE CLASS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, Dr. BURGESS and I rise today to celebrate the outstanding service and accomplishments of Crown of Life Lutheran School's eighth grade class. This group of nine students demonstrates a level of commitment and philanthropy positioning them heads and shoulders above their peers. Their dedication to anticipating and seeing to the needs of their community provides me with great hope for the future of America. Today's students are tomorrow's C.E.O.s, Chief Surgeons, and Presidents. These eighth graders will one day make decisions that will determine what this nation looks like in the years to come. We have every confidence that we are in good hands. They have already learned the most valuable lesson—leadership starts with service.

Throughout the 2011 school year, the eighth grade class proved themselves to be extraordinary leaders through their service to the students at Crown of Life Lutheran School. Every day, they cleaned the lunchroom and assisted in the school's weekly assemblies. Monthly, they helped the school set up for Colleyville Chamber of Commerce Luncheons. This Spring, the girls basketball team helped their school to win a second place at the State tournament. The boys made an impressive showing as well, placing fourth in their tournament.

These remarkable students have participated in numerous community projects as well. They helped to organize a bingo night for Finley Elliot, a three year-old who just completed a successful kidney transplant in April of 2011. The \$5,000 earnings from the event provided Finley and his family a much needed reprieve from the extensive medical costs. They also volunteered a day to clean up Lakeview Park in Grapevine in order to encourage the maintenance of public parks for the use of the community. The class also assembled care packages and wrote dozens of notes by hand to send to our soldiers overseas.

We know that Crown of Life Lutheran School is proud to claim these star eighth graders as their own, and we are proud to offer our sincerest congratulations to Hannah Andersson, Zachary Dayley, Jacob Diamond, Sarah Hall, Justin Hawes, Austin Shone, Heide Stufflebeme, John Sandfort and Christian Scherff on their graduation from middle school. We wish you all the best.

HONORING THE RIVERDALE Y'S TEEN THEATER PROGRAM

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Riverdale Y's Teen Theater program was established in

1990 to provide education, entertainment and enrichment to teens across my district in the Bronx. The program gives kids age 13–18 a chance to study musical theater, to learn through music and to perform for their community. This year, they celebrate their 20th season of performances.

The Teen Theater program has long produced entertainment for residents of the Bronx, who come to see high-level productions worthy of praise in any context, but especially so considering that the performers are our community's young people. This talented troupe of performers recently broke their own attendance record during productions of *Rent* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and they plan more productions in the coming months.

Children who take part in the program learn music, dance, dramatic and literary skills and get the chance to perform for their friends, family and community. They are enriched through the arts, they learn important skills through the arduous rehearsal process, they build self-esteem and they make lifelong friends. The program has received numerous National Youth Theater Awards in recognition of their talented performers, including most recently for *Rent*, which won awards for Best Ensemble Performance, Best Lead Actor in a Musical and Best Lead Actress in a Musical.

On behalf of the many alumni of the program, the residents of the Bronx and the entire Seventeenth District, I want to recognize and honor the Riverdale Y's Teen Theater and their director, Laurie Walton, to thank them for their contributions to our community and to wish them the best of luck in the future.

APPLAUDING THE UPPER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Upper Merion School District of Pennsylvania for winning an Environmental Achievement Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Upper Merion was recognized for being a 2010 ENERGY STAR leader and for reducing its energy consumption by more than 30 percent, an achievement reached by only about a dozen of the Nation's 15,000 school districts. All six of Upper Merion's schools have earned the ENERGY STAR rating and several buildings have energy reductions near 50 percent. The district has also embarked on an aggressive recycling program that has resulted in about 50 percent of its solid waste being recycled instead of going to the landfill. I am proud to represent the citizens of Upper Merion in Congress, and their example of stewardship—of a community taking local initiative to reduce their environmental impact—is a model of bottom-up sustainability that municipalities across America should strive to emulate.